



## Monthly Commentary

While the flowers are blooming and spring rains are passing through, as we look back at all the work that was completed this April, working with the residents and community members have been the most enjoyable and most significant.

Although we have not yet launched our “Cultural Trail” project, with the help of our hardworking staff and friends, we started a “Green Map” project. On April 18, we met and interviewed some residents and community members from the Dongsì Community to gather information and to get acquainted. Among those present was Mr. Zhu Qiqian, the grandson of the founder of the Construction Society Group, Mr. Zhu Yanqi.

The following weekend we braved the April spring rain and visited Mr. Zhu and explained to him our work and goals as he told us stories about his life. Although Mr. Zhu is not completely involved in the construction industry, because of his family’s long history in Beijing, he is devoted to the protection of the Old City. In addition to giving us suggestions to our “Cultural Trail” project, Mr. Zhu gave us a lot of encouragement. We hope to be able to create an ideal working environment so we can all come together to protect the Old City. We will compile our interview notes and share them with all of our friends shortly.

We would also like to take the time to invite those who are interested in collecting oral history to join our team because there are too many stories getting lost within the narrow passageways of the hutongs. Interested parties please email [diaoyuning@bjchp.org](mailto:diaoyuning@bjchp.org) with the email subject “Oral History.” Volunteers with work experience in the media are favorable.

We have also done some interviews with community members for our traditional courtyard renovation project. If you are interested in this, please visit the project's home page for more information.

## Beijing Cultural Heritage Protection Center

## Project Updates

### The Traditional Courtyard Renovation Training Program in Beijing

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Within the traditional courtyard neighborhoods of Beijing, we are in urgent need of an efficient way to promote the understanding of traditional architecture, especially among those residents whose homes require renovation. However, we do not have any technical support for the actual renovation process. Therefore, in order to establish a channel for knowledge transmission and to make it possible for both residents and visitors to enjoy the aesthetic and historical value of traditional Chinese architecture, we launched the “Beijing Traditional Courtyard Renovation Training Program.”

The program will be undertaken by the following three steps:

1. Survey and interview the local residents,
2. Compile technical and practical handbook for renovation of traditional courtyard architecture, and
3. Organize training.

All the steps will involve participation of volunteers such as architecture experts and those who are interested in the preservation of the traditional architecture.

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### **"Friends of Old Beijing" Phase II Progress Report**

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This month, other than collecting and recording the surveys, we are also working on compiling the data into a report. Some of the information gathered has supplemented incomplete parts of our report, while other information helps touch upon protection issues of Old Beijing. We also organized a number of volunteers to collect more information and conduct interviews for a special research regarding laws and regulations, construction, planning, and other such areas in order to identify feasible solutions and make recommendations.

Past Volunteer Activities:

On March 29, we took volunteers on a tour of Beihai Park. Although the weather was not exactly 'spring' like, the fog and moist air from the rain gave the park a flavor of Jiangnan Water Village. We visited the Round City, crossed the Yongan Bridge, climbed over to Jade Island, and took pictures in front of the Nine Dragon Wall. The natural scenery was breathtaking. We went for a snack and shared our thoughts and feelings about Chinese history and culture. Everyone's statements were very moving and touching. We are certain that the volunteers who were unable to join us also have a lot of thoughts and observations. We look forward to hosting more activities so they can join and share their opinions and feelings.

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## **Media mobilization**

"Blogs, websites keep issue alive."

China Daily

March 25, 2008

[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/cndy/2008-03/25/content\\_6562447.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/cndy/2008-03/25/content_6562447.htm)

"One man's mission to help keep tradition alive."

Bernice Chan, China Daily

April 2, 2008

[http://chinadaily.com.cn/language\\_tips/cdaudio/2008-04/02/content\\_6586949.htm](http://chinadaily.com.cn/language_tips/cdaudio/2008-04/02/content_6586949.htm)

"Facelift of China's Forbidden City to be completed ahead of Olympics."

Xinhua, People's Daily

April 9, 2008

<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90776/6389502.html>

"Smuggled relics to be sent home."

Wang Ying and Wang Shanshan, China Daily

April 9, 2008

[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2008-04/09/content\\_6600892.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2008-04/09/content_6600892.htm)

“Millions sweep up memories of their loved ones.”

Mu Qian, China Daily

April 11, 2008

[http://www.chinadaily.net/cndy/2008-04/11/content\\_6608454.htm](http://www.chinadaily.net/cndy/2008-04/11/content_6608454.htm)

“Man on the street.”

Wu Liping, China Daily

April 14, 2008

[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/citylife/2008-04/14/content\\_6613773.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/citylife/2008-04/14/content_6613773.htm)

“Remembering a literary colossus.”

Liu Jun, China Daily

April 15, 2008

[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/cndy/2008-04/15/content\\_6616190.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/cndy/2008-04/15/content_6616190.htm)

“Tibetan treasures to get tailor-made home.”

China Daily, China Daily

April 16, 2008

<http://english.sina.com/life/p/1/2008/0416/154901.html>

“Protecting the Wall’s Legacy.”

Tian Li and Shi Pengyun, China Daily

April 16, 2008

[http://www.chinadaily.net/citylife/2008-04/16/content\\_6620826.htm](http://www.chinadaily.net/citylife/2008-04/16/content_6620826.htm)

“China launches largest ever Tibet cultural relic preservation.”

Xinhua News Agency, BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific

April 19, 2008

<http://www.topnews.in/china-launches-largest-ever-tibet-cultural-relic-preservation-236901>